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28 April 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Ambassador

FROM : []

SUBJECT : Probable Possession by Iraq of the
Soviet SA-7 (STRELA-1) Hand-held
Infrared Surface-to-air Missile

Summarized below is an assessment from []
that Iraq probably has been supplied with the Soviet new
Infrared hand-held surface-to-air missile. []

1. The portable version of SA-7 is known in Soviet terminology as STRELA-1. Because STRELA-1 is a small hand-held infrared SAM, it is extremely difficult to detect unless it is fired successfully in combat. Live firing exercises could be conducted with little chance of detection. Its presence in Soviet arsenal was not known until it was observed by Israeli pilots in Egypt and fragments were recovered from Israeli aircraft. The missile is simple to operate and requires no specialized support equipment or telltale construction. STRELA-1 is confirmed in Egypt, North Vietnam and East Germany; it has been reported to be in Syria. Therefore, we consider its presence in Iraq as highly probable. SA-3, SA-7 and ZSU-23/4 are considered a single integral air defense system. Iraq already has SA-3 but there as yet are no reports that ZSU-23/4 have been delivered. However, we believe it highly likely Iraq received or will receive the entire "Air Defense Package", i.e., SA-3, SA-7 and ZSU-23/4.

2. SA-7 mounted on BRDM-2 are known in Soviet terminology as STRELA-2. This system has thus far been deployed in limited numbers solely to Warsaw Pact countries. It is, therefore, not as likely that this version will be deployed in Iraq.

3. The U.S. counterpart to SA-7 is the Redeye.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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